



Hispanic Research Methodology

Arturo Cuellar-Gonzalez, AG®

FamilySearch

cuellararturo@familysearch.org

The objectives of the class are to learn proper Hispanic research methodology and will include proper research processes, how to glean clues from records, and research tips and tactics to help you be successful.

RESEARCH TIPS AND TACTICS

Research steps

Begin with what you know

- Begin with the most recent generations
- Work from the known (well-documented) to the unknown
- Look for the next to the last person (If documented well) on the pedigree, not the last
- Look for all the members of a family
- Always pay attention to the godparents and witnesses

Record your findings

- Keep a research log or good notes (Paper or Electronic)
- Always cite your sources

Analyze all the clues

- Ages
- Originario de, natural de and vecino de (where are they from)
- Relationships

Choose records to search

- Based on clues AND records availability
- When you have both Civil Registration and Catholic Church records, view them both

What records to look for?

- If you know the names of parents, search for their marriage record or the birth/baptism records of their children.

- If you know the name of the spouse, search for a marriage record or the births/baptisms of their children.
- If you know the names of siblings, search for birth/baptism records of the siblings.

Marriage information files

- Two images, almost three whole pages
- Petition to marry
- Parental consent
- Declarations by the bride and groom
- Declarations of witnesses
- Marriage certificate

SEARCH TIPS AND TACTICS

- Always search by name first
- Try various combinations
- Less is more
- Try your search at least 4 or 5 different ways
 - o Individual
 - o Child with parents
 - o Adult with spouse
 - o Parents names only
 - o Names of any known siblings
- Log in to your FamilySearch account before you begin so you can save any found records to your tree or Source box.
 - If the record is not found in the year expected, consider looking a few years earlier or a few years later.
 - Always, ALWAYS, ALWAYS view the original record. Open a new browser window when searching for the original so you can refer back to the information from the indexed record.

Browsing image collections

1. Using the map, click on the country of the person you are looking for
2. Choose the next level of jurisdiction from the drop-down menu
3. Click on the words Start researching in [name of your jurisdiction].
4. Choose an image collection.

- Indexed Historical Records. At the top of the page you will find collections that have indexed records. These may be fully or partially indexed and may or may not be connected to their corresponding image. Many of these collections can also be browsed. The steps to browse these collections are the same as for image only collections.

- Image Only Historical Records. Following the indexed records you will see the image only collections. Choose the collection you wish to browse.

5. Click on the words Browse through ... images.
6. Choose the Province, State, City, or Town
7. Choose the next level of jurisdiction. It could be city, town, or parish. Continuing choosing jurisdictions until you arrive at the desired destination.

8. Choose the image set which includes the desired time range for the record you seek. Births, Marriages, Deaths, etc. If your ancestor was born about 1865 and there are two sets of records that cover that year, search them both.

Image browsing tips

- Use the arrows to advance images in either direction.
- Enter an image number and jump to a different spot within the image set. For example if the image set has 500 images and covered the time period 1810-1816 and your ancestor was born about 1813. You may want to jump ahead to image 250.
- Normally images are in chronological order by the date in which the event was recorded. To search for a birth/baptism record, begin with the known date of birth and work your way forward in time. Events may be recorded days, weeks, months, or even years after the fact. Be patient.

Case study starting point

1930 Mexico census. Selso Juarez in the 1930 Mexico census, Apozol, Apozol, Zacatecas, Mexico, Image 11. <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-267-12874-86670-16?cc=1307314&wc=9433843>

- Selso Juarez, male, age 44 years, married by the church, businessman, Zacatecas
- Isabel Macias, female, age 44 years, married by the church, Zacatecas
- Jesus Juarez, female, age 12 years, single, Zacatecas

Possible next steps

- Birth/baptism record of child Jesus born about 1918. Where? Begin in Apozol.
- Marriage record of Celso Juarez and Isabel Macias. When? Before 1918? Where?

Step 1

Search for the birth/baptism record of the possible daughter Jesus born about 1918 in Zacatecas. Try searching by name first. If not found, browse either the Civil Registration records or the Catholic Church records for the town of Apozol.

Record found: Mexico, Zacatecas, Catholic Church Records, 1605-1980, Apozol, Apozol, Zacatecas, Bautismos 1912-1928, Image 327.

Clues

- Maria Jesus Juarez, baptized 6 May 1918. Born 3 May 1918
- Parents: Celso Juarez and Maria Isabel Macias
- Paternal grandparents: Jose Maria Juarez and Bruna Borroel
- Maternal grandparents: Remigio Macias and Bibiana Luna

Step 2

Find the marriage of Celso Juarez and Isabel Macias. When and Where?

- Daughter born 3 May 1918 was the only child listed in the census.
- Birth years of Celso and Isabel from the census – abt. 1886
- Begin with the known birth date of the oldest child and work your way backwards.
- Keep an open mind. Don't wait 9 months after the marriage date to begin your search.

Record found: Mexico, Zacatecas, Catholic Church Records, 1605-1980, Apozol, Apozol, Zacatecas, Matrimonios, información matrimonial 1907-1918, Image 596.

Clues:

- Celso Juarez, age 34 (1881) born in Nochistlan, resident of Apozol for 28 years, son of Jose Maria Juarez and Bruna Borruel.
- Isabel Macias, age 33 (1882), born in and resident of Apozol, daughter of Remigio Macias, deceased and Bibiana Luna.

Step 3

Search for the birth/baptism of Celso Juarez. Born about 1880-1886 in Zacatecas.

- New names – new search. Search using the names of parents.
- You will not find the birth/baptism of Celso but you can find many of his siblings. Locate the record of Maria Gabina Juarez baptized 21 February 1872.

Record found: Mexico, Zacatecas, Catholic Church Records, 1605-1980, Nochistlan, Nochistlan, Zacatecas, Bautismos de hijos legítimos 1870-1873, Image 232.

Clues:

- Maria Gabina Juarez, baptized 21 February 1872, born 19 February 1872.
- Parents: Jose Maria Juarez and Bruna Borroel
- Paternal grandparents: Manuel Juarez and Rufina Avilas?
- Maternal grandparents: Vicente Borroel and Luiza Flores

Step 4

Locate the marriage of Jose Maria Juarez and Bruna Borroel on 27 February 1865 in Nochistlan in indexed records and then in images.

Record found: Mexico, Zacatecas, Catholic Church Records, 1605-1980, Nochistlan, Nochistlan, Zacatecas, Matrimonios 1856-1866, Image 567.

Clues:

- Jose Maria Juarez, age 22, native of Cerro de San Miguel, son of Manuel Juarez and Rufina? who are living.
- Bruna Borroel, age 16, native and resident of the Cofradia, daughter of Visente Borroel and Luisa Flores, who are living.

Recommendations for future research:

Find more information about Manuel Juarez and Rufina de Avelar

- Look for the marriage of Manuel Juarez and Maria Rufina de Avelar
- Look for the baptism of Jose Maria Juarez

Clues:

Manuel Juarez, native and resident of Rincon de Aguayos, age 40, widower from a first marriage to Alejandra Medrano for 9 months. She is buried in the parish cemetery.

Maria Rufina de Abelar, native and resident of the Hacienda de Santa Gertrudis, age 25, daughter of Toribio de Abelar and Maria Francisca Zalasar.

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